

ALBANIA

March 1953

1. GENERAL DEVELOPMENTS

There was an unusual amount of interest in Albania in international circles during March. The possible collapse of the Hoxha regime following Stalin's death and the uncertainty with regard to Yugoslav intentions gave rise to rumors ranging from imminent revolution to partition of the country by Yugoslavia and Greece. The Italian Government was particularly concerned over the possibility that while in London Tito would make a deal which would give him a free hand in Albania in exchange for a more reasonable attitude on the Trieste question. The Italians also feared that Yugoslavia and Greece would partition Albania in the event of a revolt within the country. However, all available information indicates that the reports of unrest were exaggerated, and were probably deliberately inspired by the Yugoslavs to unsettle the Italians and perhaps to facilitate the inclusion of Albania as a topic in Tito's London talks. In conversation with U.S. officials, high-ranking members of the Yugoslav Government stated their belief that, while collapse of the Albanian regime is inevitable at some time in the future, this time is not in sight. Yugoslav officials continued to deny that Yugoslavia has any intention of aggressive action toward Albania and again affirmed that in their opinion the time is not yet ripe for an externally sponsored coup d'etat.

2. SYNOPSIS

The Albanian project, BOFIELD, is directed by the

3. OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

Current objectives at which our FN and PF activities were aimed during the period continued to be development of clandestine assets within the country, the expansion of our present limited working relationship with the Yugoslavs vis-a-vis Albania, harassment of the regime by all forms and media of P/W, and improvement of the effectiveness of the political front (National Committee for Free Albania, NCFA).

a. Paramilitary

(1) On the night of 10-11 March the British carried out a leaflet raid over Albania. Due to bad weather only two-thirds of the leaflets were dropped at this time. The balance was dropped on the night of 12-13 March.

b. Political-Psychological

(1) The regular broadcast schedule was maintained by the covert radio during March. The programs featured Stalin's death with the probable repercussions in Albania, and the Balkan Pact, which was contrasted with the impending disunity in the Communist world.

(2) The NCFA semi-monthly newspaper Shqipëria was printed in Rome on schedule. Fifty-thousand copies of the miniature edition of the paper were printed and sent to Athens for use in air drops over Albania.

(3) The Albanian News Bulletin, printed irregularly in English, French and Italian, published its 15th issue on 28 February 1953.

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